

DRAFT Underhill Invasives Task Force Minutes

June 24, 2019, Underhill Town Hall, 6:30 - 8:00

- **In Attendance:**
 - **UCC:** Karen McKnight, Daphne Taner
 - **Community Members:** Steve Webster
- **Public Comments**--None
- **Meeting Norms**--Postponed
- **Reviewed and Updated Goal Statement**
 - The goal of the Underhill Invasives Task Force is to identify and implement strategies for controlling invasive species in Underhill in order to promote and maintain biodiversity, native flora and fauna, and healthy ecosystems with a focus on riparian habitats.
- **Work Party Update:**
 - 5 people (Karen Neeson, Mark Green, Michele Karel, Daphne Taner, and Steve Webster) worked on several of the knotweed patches adjacent to New Road to the north of the Town Garage.
 - In places where we felt it was safe to disturb the soil (i.e., places where it would not increase soil erosion into Crane Brook), we dug up and bagged some of the “crowns” and roots. Mark agreed to take the bags to Green Mountain Compost.
 - We cut and piled knotweed stems along the side of the road to dry out.
 - We need to check on those piles periodically to turn them over and to be sure they are not sprouting new plants.
 - Ultimately, **we need a better solution for disposal of the stems.**
 - **We need to take a look at the knotweed patch downhill from the “stump dump” in the old landfill**
 - Next work sessions:
 - Saturday, July 6, 9:00 - noon
 - Meet at Town Hall
 - Saturday, July 20, 9:00 - noon
 - Meet at Town Hall
- **Proposal:**
 - For now, primary focus on knotweed in CBCD riparian area and any small patches just getting started, and a secondary focus on honeysuckle.
 - **To Do: Walk the brook to look for more patches**
- **Knotweed Field Research Options:**
 - Try different treatments and compare results. Assess the time required and level of success:
 - Cut and remove stems
 - Cut and remove stems and dig out as many rhizomes as possible
 - Cut and leave stems and leaves in place (to shade the ground)
 - Determine whether stems left on the ground sprout new plants
 - Try pieces from different locations on the stems--just above crown, middle of stem
 - Spray with vinegar & Dawn for Dishes
 - Young plants only?
 - A few articles (still need more research):
 - <https://www.thegardenglove.com/how-to-make-safe-homemade-weed-killer/>
 - See [2. Natural Weed Killer w/ Vinegar...](#)

- [Vinegar and Epsom Salts](#)
 - [Why It Can Be Dangerous to Use Vinegar...](#)
 - [Make Your Own Natural Weed Killer](#)
- Goats
- Other?
- Develop a plan for our next work party--Steve
- **Review Possible Strategies for the Task Force:**
 - **Research:** Collect information and disseminate in a clear way
 - Conduct an inventory of "problem areas"
 - Online survey to ask property owners
 - Create an online map showing the location of invasive species. (Is there an app we can use?)
 - Identify key species to focus on:
 - Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, goutweed, garlic mustard, wild parsnip
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Identify control options
 - **Education:**
 - Educate ourselves
 - Create a publically accessible online library of information about invasive species
 - Provide landowners with educational resources so they can take action on their own land
 - Sponsor community educational workshops
 - Hold an "invasive species summer camp" (similar to Jericho Rec camps)
 - Disseminate information at the Jericho Farmer's Market
 - Educate town road crew (and hired contractors) about invasives
 - Add language to contracts that addresses invasives management and control
 - Letter of understanding
 - Do's and Don'ts
 - Pictures of knotweed, etc.
 - Information re propagation
 - Talk to BRMS and elementary schools
 - Get students involved
 - Use Town Website to disseminate info
 - **Community Organizing:** Motivate the community to take action and to participate in activities to help us attain our goal
 - Labor-intensive mechanical control techniques
 - Collaborate with nearby communities (e.g., share info re upcoming workshops, possibly hold joint work parties, share success stories, etc.)
 - **Fundraising:**
 - Raise funds for tools, black plastic, advertising, refreshments/food, workshops, fees to attend workshops/conferences, rental of vehicles to transport materials, etc.
- **Invasives Plan--Postponed**
- **Next Steps:**
 - Post to FPF--Steve
 - Email Chris's list--Steve
- **Next Meeting**
 - TBD: July 22-25?--Steve